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SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST TURKEY PRESS SUMMARY FOR OCTOBER 12, 2005

This is the Southeastern Turkey press summary for October 12, 2005. Please note that Turkish press reports often contain errors or exaggerations; AmConsulate Adana does not vouch for the accuracy of the reports summarized here.

POLITICAL, SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS

ZAMAN / SABAH (GUNEY): Farm animal breeders warned that a ban should be imposed to prevent bird hunting in the Cukurova region, because the season for the arrival of the migrating birds to Yumurtalik and Karatas districts is approaching. Breeders further called for heightened measures such as keeping chickens in closed spaces in the villages. Bird flu threat in Balikesir caused disturbance in the Hatay province as well. Association for Research on Birds announced that the birds migrating over Hatay are not among the breeds that contract the disease.

CUMHURIYET / SANAH / HURRIYET / OZGUR GUNDEM: Upon receiving a bomb threat notification, Adana Security Directorate's Anti-Terror Branch found a suspicious bag on one of the main routes of Adana beside the Seyhan River. The bag reportedly contained a fragmentation hand grenade. The police started to probe the case. Separately, a car exploding in Hakkari damaged two other cars. No casualties were reported. The police heightened security measures in the area.

CUMHURIYET / RADIKAL / SABAH / OZGUR GUNDEM: An 11-year-old child grazing his flock of sheep in Dogubeyazit district of Agri, was severely wounded when a mine he found went off in his hands. PKK allegedly planted the mine earlier. In a separate incident in Van's Baskale district, a 43-year-old shepherd was wounded when a mine went off as he stepped on it.

RADIKAL: A former village guard, Nevaf Aydin, who was accused along with ten village guards of killing eight people and wounding seven persons in Mardin thirteen years ago, was caught and arrested in Izmir. The court that tries village guards has been going on in Denizli's Second Heavy Penalty Court.

RADIKAL: The daily reported that the DTH (Democratic Society Movement), which is expected to form a political party by the end of this month, included in its draft charter ideas and policies concerning women's issues and Kurdish issues that reportedly resembled Abdullah Ocalan's views. DTH has not yet named a national leader or the brand name of the political party, reported the daily.

OZGUR GUNDEM: The paper promoted policies that will likely be adopted in the charter of the DTH. Reportedly, the charter aimed to represent all people in society and aims to cover national-level issues. The charter reportedly envisages democratic, participatory and alternative solutions to the structural problems of Turkey.

OZGUR GUNDEM / SABAH: Hakan Acil, a police officer, was kidnapped on a road between Sirnak's Idil district and Mardin's Midyat district (see press summary 10/11). Ozgur Gundem daily reported that a military operation was launched to find the police officer, and F-16 aircraft were allegedly being used in the search. Selahattin Demirtas, Chairperson of the Diyarbakir Human Rights Association (HRA), demanded that the police officer be released immediately. Reportedly, security officers increased searches at checkpoints in Midyat and Idil.

OZGUR GUNDEM: A group of people staged a demonstration in Mardin's Nusaybin district, threw Molotov cocktails and stopped traffic. Reportedly, the people were protesting October 9, a day which reportedly marks the deportation of Abdullah Ocalan from Syria.

OZGUR GUNDEM: The dead body of a 25-year-old male was found in a village of Siirt's Eruh district.

OZGUR GUNDEM: The daily continues to report the alleged oppression against the inmates of the Kurkculer Jail in Adana. Reportedly, a letter of complaint which was written by the inmates and which was addressed to the Ministry of Justice, was reportedly torn up by the jail administration on grounds that the letter included "harmful" content.

OZGUR GUNDEM: Attorneys, who are members of the Mersin Bar Association, after having solicited a meeting with their clients under detention, were reportedly badly treated and harassed by officers at Mersin's Security Directorate as they were waiting for their client's arrival.

OZGUR GUNDEM: Municipality workers staged a protest in front of Seyhan's Municipality in Adana. 12 workers, working in the cleaning services of the municipality were laid off, allegedly on grounds that they were involved in unionist activities.

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

1. ZAMAN: Saban Bas, Chairperson of Adana Chamber of Commerce, said that following the opening of negotiation talks with the EU, investment opportunities and transportation facilities in the Haci Sabanci Organized Industrial Zone (OIZ), will render Cukurova region one of the "shining stars of Turkey." OIZ is reportedly providing employment to 15,000 workers.

2. HURRIYET (CUKUROVA): Agricultural issues were discussed in a meeting called "Turkey's Agricultural Issues and the Cukurova Region" held by ADSIAD (Adana Industrialists and Businessmen Association) in light of developments taking place in the EU and World Trade Organization.

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